/77% cont./

342 Selesniéfsqua still found the dome-shaped huts in the neighborhood of Cape Horn, where conical ones were already appearing, whereas on the shores of the middle and eastern Beagle Channel there were only conical huts (Hyades [4] 265). Modern times have brought about a still more radical change with the introduction of the European hut ax, since with it and other iron tools thick trunks can be felled even in the west and south, and there are suitable for the construction of a solid conical hut (14). /77%/ This explains why both types of huts

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14. Lothrop (5):139 very emphatically points to this circumstance: "The introduction of the ax has increased the use of the pointed house form" /cited in English/. In Figure 55 he reproduces a "modern Yahgan house" of this type of construction.

were erected side by side in a few places of the middle zone, and why in a particular place one traveler spoke about this form, another about that form (15).

15. On the islands near Cape Horn in February, 1901, Dabbene (3) :178 saw the more stable, cone-shaped form of hut, which seemed strange to him. Twenty years earlier, among the Yamana of the south, the Mission Scientifique still found the dome-shaped hut.

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Since the west has become completely depopulated, the last Yamana are staying mostly in the central part and in the east where European travelers have found only cone-shaped huts with a framework of thick trunks (16). One is not mistaken if he considers this more stable

16. From the indefinite accounts of other travelers we cannot reach a safe judgment about the distribution of the two types of huts during their sojours in that region. In Bove (6):187 (and in MM:XVIII, 189; 1894) we read: "Their huts have, in general, a cone-shaped form and two doors diametrically

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[24] editors. If this large and extensive monograph is not accessible, the following more important papers may be consulted: Gusinde (1931–32, 1934, 1935 a, 1935 c, 1936 a, 1936 c, 1937, 1939 b, 1939); Koppers (1925 a, 1925 b, 1926 a, 1929 b, 1937, 1939 a, 1938 b).

For bibliographies of the *Yahgan* see: Cooper (1917), for sources, with comments on each, to 1917; Lothrup (1928), for sources from 1917 to 1928; Gusinde (1937), for selected and added sources, and for evaluations (pp. 40–58) of the publications of the more important first-hand observers.

[25] Language.—The *Yahgan* language with its five mutually intelligible dialects constitutes a distinct linguistic family, with no known relationship to any other. The older Bridges' *Yámana*-English dictionary, the one completed in 1859, contains about 32,000 words, a decidedly restricted, not a padded, list, as he himself emphasized (1933, p. xvii). *Yahgan*, in contrast to *Ona*, is markedly euphonic. There were no words for numerals beyond three, and none for fractions.

[26] Population.—According to the first dependable estimates, the *Yahgan* population, in the third quarter of the 19th century, totaled between 3,500 and 3,600 souls. In 1921 a sharp decline set in. By 1884 numbers had dwindled to about 1,000; by 1886, to 400; by 1890, to 300; by 1908, to 100; by 1913, to less than 100; by 1923 to 40. The immediate causes of the sudden drop in the eighties were the respiratory diseases and a severe outbreak of measles in 1884, followed by epidemics of typhoid, whooping cough, and smallpox. Syphilis does not appear to have played an important role. Contributory, or rather basic predisposing, factors were, it seems, the then introduced European ways of life, especially the clothing, but also the food, alcoholic beverages, and type of shelter and work.

[27]

CULTURE

SUBSISTENCE ACTIVITIES

[28] Foods.—The *Yahgan* had no domesticated plants, and no domesticated animals except the dog. Whether the earlier pre-Columbian and post-Columbian *Yahgan* had dogs is uncertain. No bones of dogs have been found in early archeological sites in *Yahgan* or other *Fuegian* territory. The earlier explorers,—L'Hermite, 1624; d'Arquistade, 1715—make no mention of the dog in their descriptions of *Yahgan* culture, as none is made of it among the *Alacaluf* by the 15 accounts of them prior to Narborough's of 1670. The dog was first recorded among the *Yahgan* in 1823 by James Weddell; it is recorded consistently thereafter by later observers (Cooper, 1917, pp. 166–167). Dogs were not eaten.

3: Lothrop E-5 (1924-1925) 1928
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The Ona and the Haush spoke related dialects and occupied the interior of the main island of Tierra del Fuego; they are often called the Foot Indians because of their manner of living. The Yahgan frequented the south coast of the main island and the islands to the south; the Alacaluf formerly lived at the western end of the Straits of Magellan but have moved northward to Raciôn sound. The habitat of each tribe as it was half a century ago is shown in pl. IV.

No census of the indigenous population in the old days was ever taken, but from several different estimates the numbers of each tribe seventy-five years ago were approximately:

Ona,	3000	Yahgan,	2800–3000
Haush,	300	Alacaluf,	3500–4000

Since at least half of the Alacaluf lived north of the Straits of Magellan, the total native population of Tierra del Fuego and the adjacent islands can scarcely have been more than 9000.

At the time of the writer's visit (1924–25) the Indian population, including mixed-bloods, was approximately:

Ona,	60–70	Yahgan,	40–50
Haush,	2– 3	Alacaluf,	150

Of the Alacaluf only two were seen south of the Straits of Magellan, as they now live far to the north, for the greater part in the vicinity of Raciôn sound. The figure for their numbers is the estimate of the Rev. John Williams of Punta Arenas.

Later in the same year (1925) an epidemic of measles ravaged Tierra del Fuego. What happened to the Yahgan I do not know, but Mr. William Bridges wrote me that more than twenty adult Ona and an unknown number of children had died. With the exception of a few mixed-bloods the Indians of Tierra del Fuego are probably extinct.

Because the writer saw little of the Alacaluf and Haush, it is principally of the Ona and Yahgan we shall speak below. Before beginning a detailed description we shall discuss their environment and physical peculiarities, and shall list the features of their culture.

CLIMATE

Tierra del Fuego lies between 53° and 56° south latitude, corresponding to the position in the northern hemisphere of the Aleutian islands, southern Labrador, or the central part of Great Britain.